

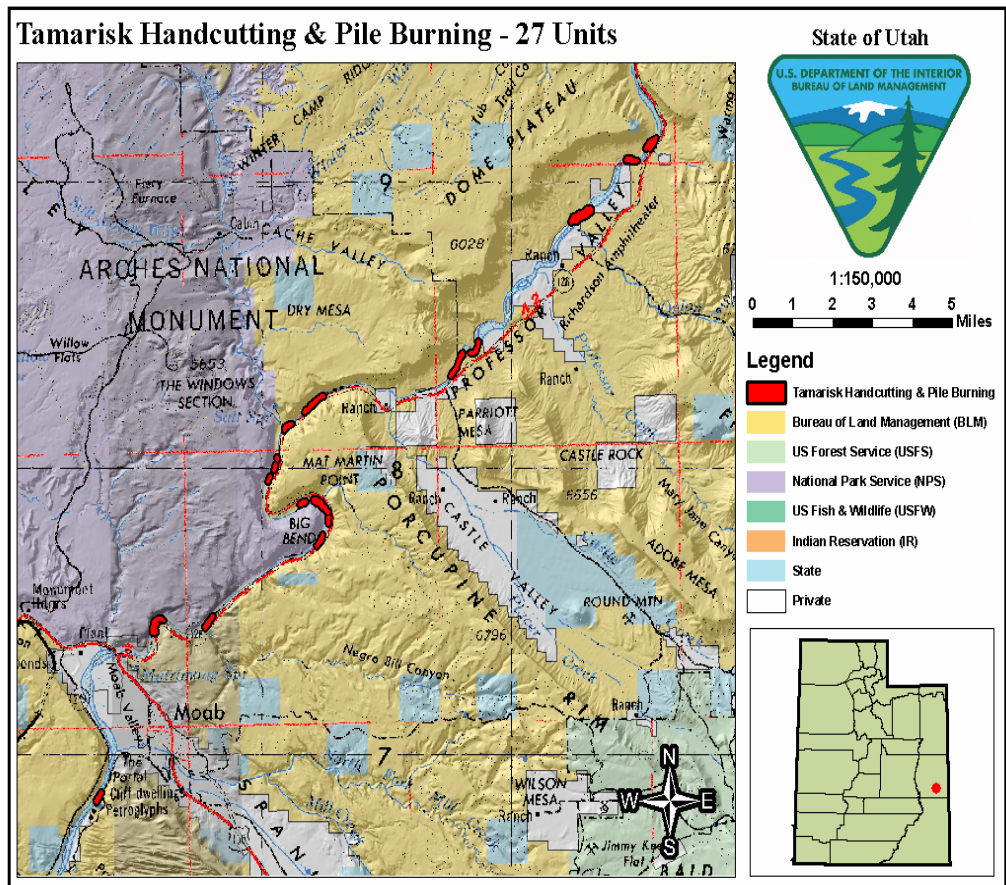
# Planned Fuel Mitigation Projects for the Bureau of Land Management Southeastern Utah- Fall 2006

## HAZARDOUS FUEL/MAINTENANCE/REHABILITATION PROJECTS

The goals of hazardous fuel/maintenance/rehabilitation projects are to protect public and firefighter safety in the event of a wildfire by reducing fuel loadings and fire hazards in order to, to control noxious/invasive plant species and to improve habitat conditions.

<u>County</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Grand	Tamarisk	Hand Pile	20
Grand	Tamarisk	Pile Burning	20
Grand	Tamarisk	Thinning	20

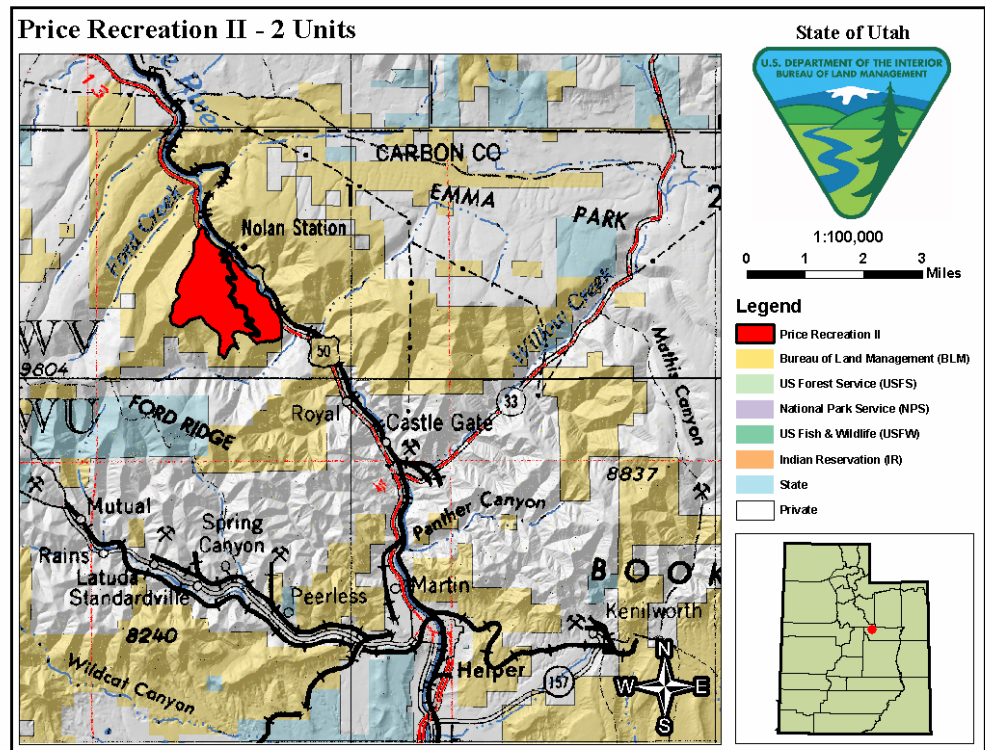
The Tamarisk Project has been a multiple phase project, which has included thinning, hand piling and pile burning. In some portions of the project area, willow and cottonwood stock will be planted to assist the re-vegetation process. Following initial treatment, herbicides may be used to further control the spread and growth of tamarisk. This fall more thinning, piling and burning will take place as personnel availability and weather allow.



<u>County</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Carbon	Price Recreation	Pile Burning	25

The goal of the Price Recreation Project is to remove hazardous fuels that have accumulated in and around the Price Canyon Recreation Area. In the event of a wildfire, current fuel loadings pose a threat to the public, BLM employees and wildland firefighters. Fuel hazard reduction efforts include removing ladder fuels and thinning between selected oak brush groups which break up the horizontal continuity of the vegetation.

The slash created from thinning will be piled and burned on site. All thinning efforts within and around the campgrounds were carefully selected to maintain privacy between campsites and screen the public use areas from the shaded fuel break as much as possible.



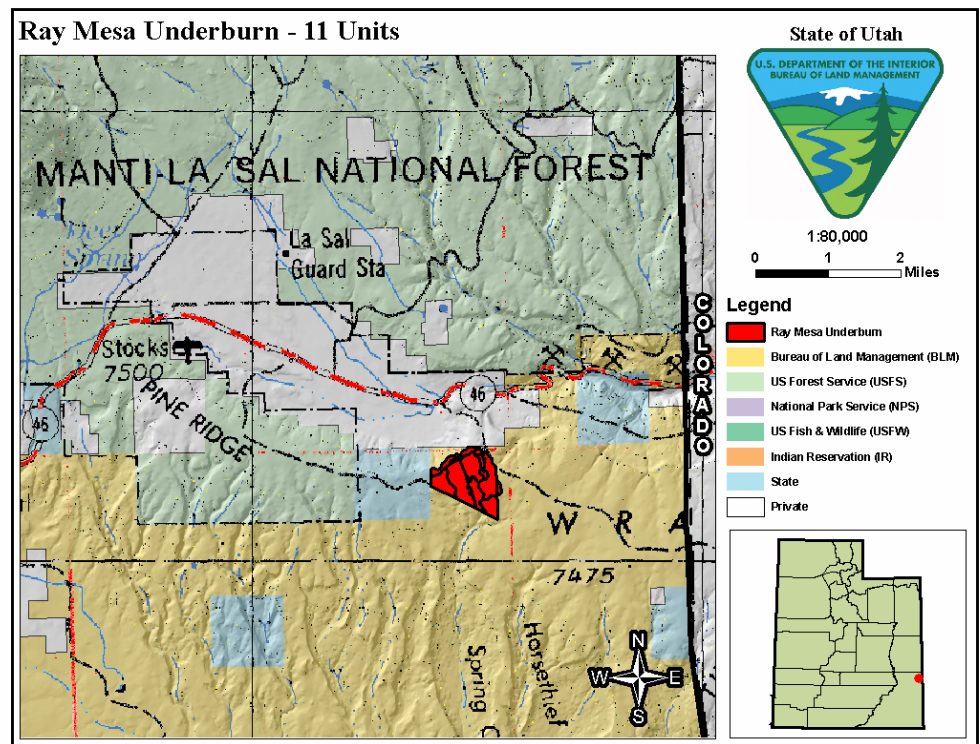
## WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE PROJECTS

In response to the destruction of many residential homes during the 1985 fire season, the USDA Forest Service and the National Fire Protection Association created a program called the National Wildland-Urban Interface Initiative. The program endeavored to identify hazardous interface areas and to determine an appropriate management direction for each area. The devastating fires of 2002 led to several new fire policies and documents supportive of the original wildland-urban interface program, including the newly revised Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, the National Fire Plan, and the Healthy Forests Initiative.

Several areas of public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Moab Field Office, have been identified as “wildland-urban interface (WUI)” areas in need of immediate management action to improve and protect public health and safety. The definition encompasses lands on which buildings, homes, and other structures of human development are adjacent to or directly intermingling with undeveloped wildland or other fuel sources. Homes and other structures in WUI areas could be at risk from high intensity and fast-moving fires or from flooding and/or mud flows as a result of high intensity fires that can completely denude soil stabilizing vegetative cover.

<u>County</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Acres</u>
San Juan	Old La Sal	Ray Mesa	Underburn	300

There are at least ten homes and several out building sites in the Ray Mesa area and there has been a fire in recent history that threatened the homes. Private property and the safety of homeowners/firefighters would be jeopardized in the event of another fire. This fall an underburn will be implemented in the project area. The detailed burn plan for the underburn delineates weather and fuel moisture conditions required to meet resource objectives. A test fire would be conducted prior to full ignition to ensure fuels management and resource objectives will be met. Ignition of the burn would be conducted by hand (drip torches using a diesel/gasoline mixture).





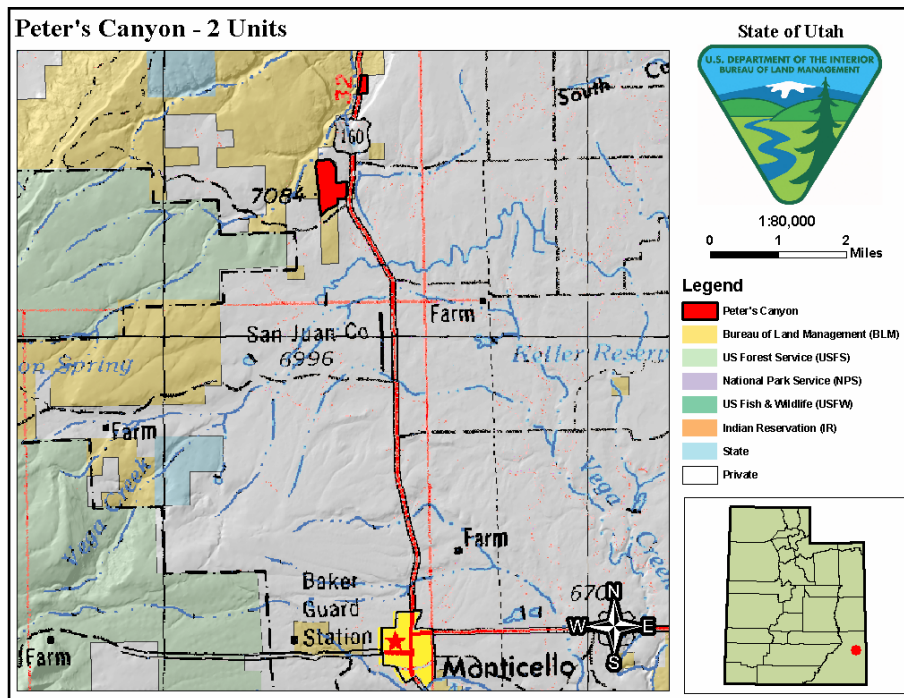
<u>County</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Acres</u>
San Juan	Peter's Canyon	Peter's Canyon	Pile Burn	9

The Peter's Canyon Project covers 158 acres of overstocked beetle-killed pinyon/juniper. Additionally, there are several homes surrounded by public lands that could be severely impacted by wildfire without mitigation efforts.

Over the last two years, contract crews have been mechanically treating project area with a bull hog where terrain is flat and BLM crews have been hand thinning fuels, piling slash and pile burning.

Recent slash generated by crews will be piled and prepped for burning this fall. An underburn may also be conducted this fall to eliminate bullhog slash. This

fall, after the remaining acres have been treated, the Peter's Canyon Project will be 100% completed.

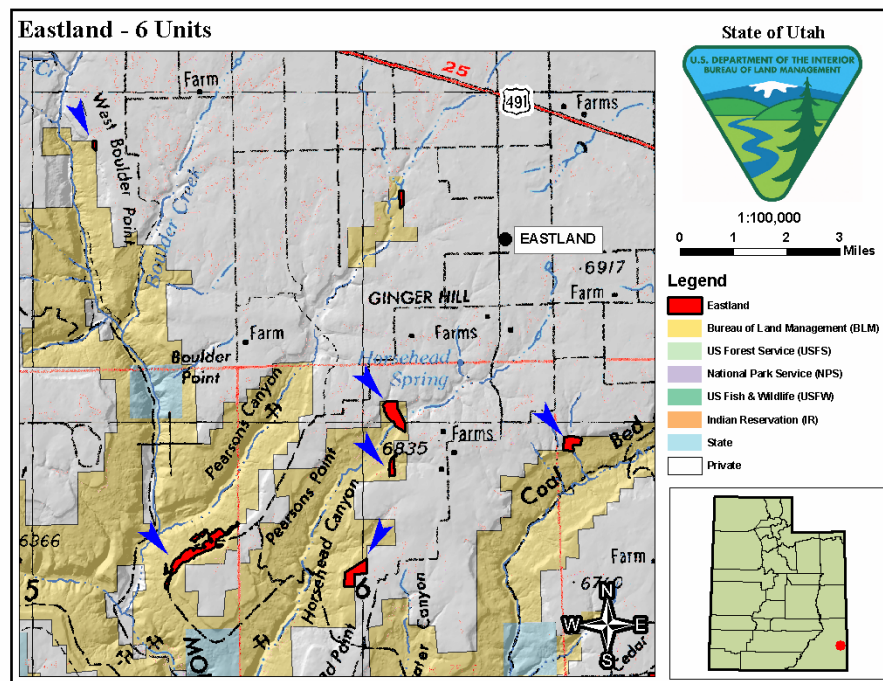


<u>County</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Acres</u>
San Juan	Eastland	Eastland	Pile Burn	230

The Eastland Project covers several small sections of public lands in and around the vicinity of Eastland. A total of 240 acres on 6 separate parcels will be treated throughout this project.

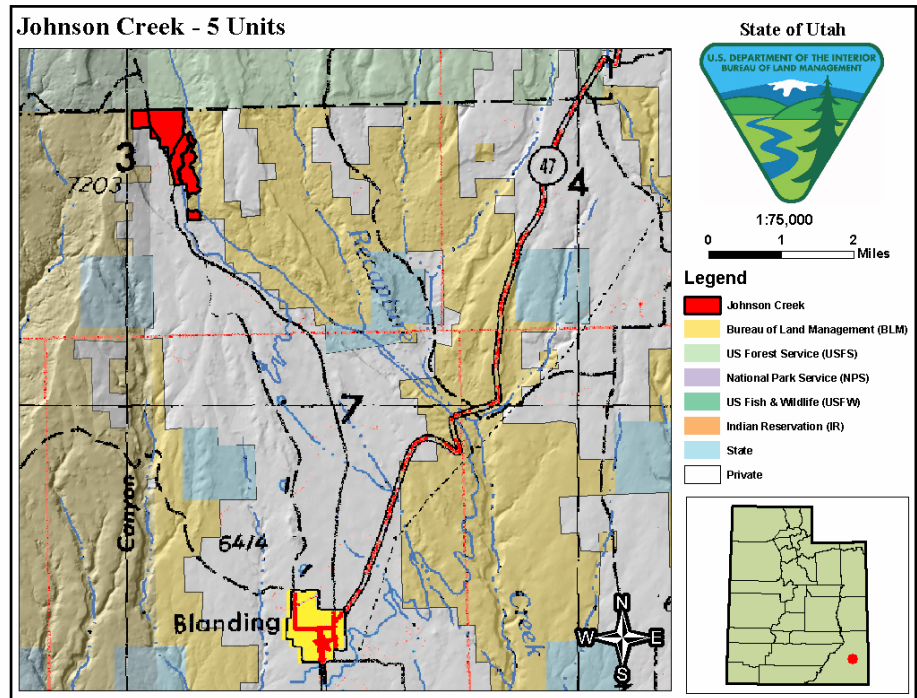
Contractors and BLM crews have been thinning and cutting the excess growth of invasive pinyon/juniper on public lands for later burning. Throughout the winter of 2005/2006, crews successfully burned the slash piles on 35 acres while snow was on the ground.

During the fall of 2006, crews hope to complete the slash pile burning on the remaining acres.



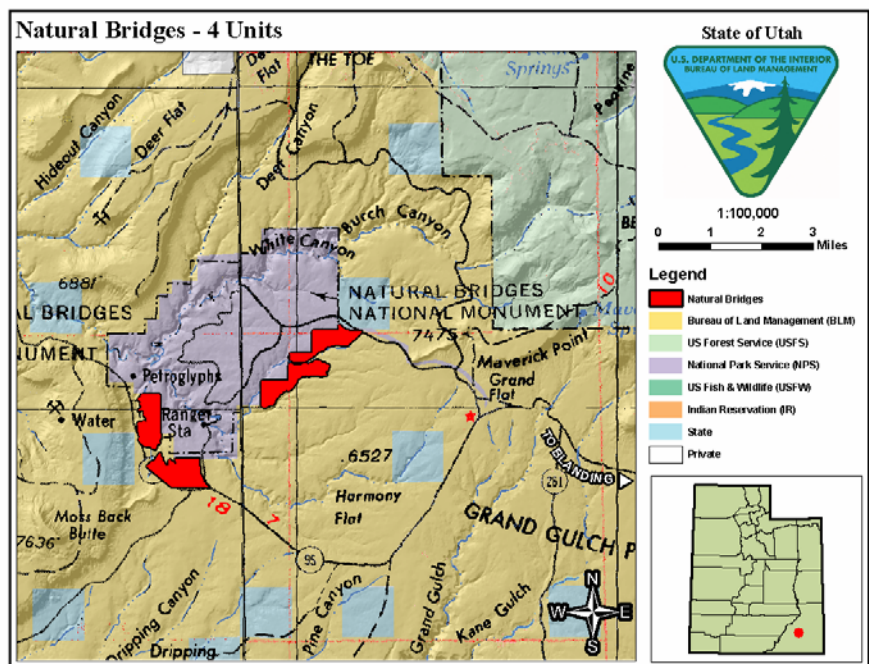
<u>County</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Acres</u>
San Juan	Canyon Terrace/Blanding	Johnson's Creek	Biomass Removal	50
San Juan	Canyon Terrace/Blanding	Johnson's Creek	Hand Pile	50

The Johnson Creek Project covers 345 acres on three different units. A contractor has started cutting excess fuels and will continue as conditions allow. This fall contract crews will be piling the slash and preparing for burning it at a later time. This particular project is being completed through the Stewardship Contract Authority. The Stewardship contracts allow forest products to be exchanged for ecological restoration services.



<u>County</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Acres</u>
San Juan	Natural Bridges	Bridges	Hand Pile	500
San Juan	Natural Bridges	Bridges	Thinning	500

Four Units covering 1,023 acres will be treated within the Natural Bridges Project. The project is designed to decrease hazardous fuel loads, reduce the encroachment of pinyon/juniper into sagebrush meadows, enhance the health of pinyon/juniper woodlands, and restore ecosystem function. The project will be accomplished over several years and could include a variety of treatment methods such as hand-thinning with chainsaws, mechanical cutting with hydro-axes (large tractor mounted mower), and/or mastication (grinding and chipping) of trees with an environmental brush cutter (large tractor mounted tree grinder). This fall, mechanical thinning and hand piling will take place within the 1,023-acre project area. Dependent upon location and visibility from the road, slash could be chipped, spread, or piled and burned at a later date. Prescribed fire would also be implemented in the future on BLM lands throughout the project area to maintain the lowered fuel loads and to replicate historic fire patterns.



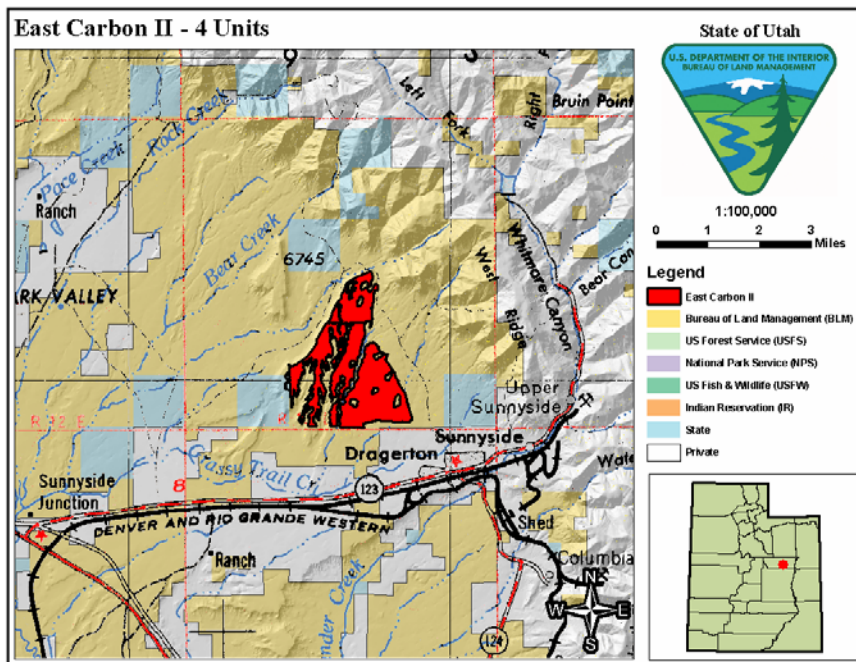


<u>County</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Carbon	East Carbon/Sunnyside	East Carbon II	Mastication	1900
Carbon	East Carbon/Sunnyside	East Carbon II	Hand Pile	100
Carbon	East Carbon/Sunnyside	East Carbon II	Seeding	2500
Carbon	East Carbon/Sunnyside	East Carbon II	Thinning	100

Previously, four project units covering 585 acres were thinned, piled and burned north of the communities of East Carbon and Sunnyside.

This fall, four more units covering 1,923 acres will be treated with a variety of methods including; mastication, hand piling, seeding, and thinning.

The Utah Partnership for Conservation and Development (UPCD) and Utah State Wildlife Resources (WR) have partnered with the BLM for the seeding portion of the project. A contractor will handle the mastication portion of the project.



**For additional information regarding BLM Fuels projects in Carbon, Emery, Grand and San Juan Counties- please call Heather O'Hanlon @ 435-259-2184.**